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# **SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE TASK FORCE MEETING**



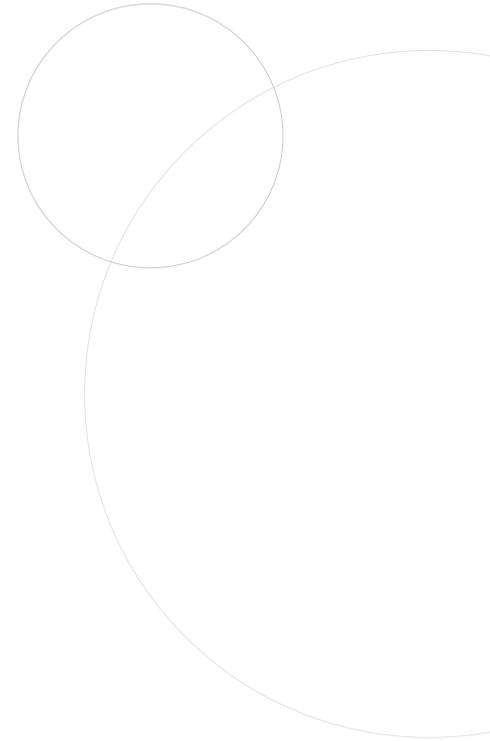
October 7, 2019



# AGENDA

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- 9:30 Welcome, introductions, agenda review
- 9:55 Co-management
- 10:40 Overview of draft report
- 11:00 Discussion of new recommendations (Part I)
- 11:30 Lunch break
- 12:15 Discussion of new recommendations (Part II)
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Public comment
- 3:45 Adoption of new recommendations
- 5:00 Adjourn



# *Southern Resident Killer Whale*

## *Update October 2019*





**TOGETHER**  
we **CAN** help

Become a CWR Member »



The Southern Resident orcas need your help like never before. For these magnificent whales to survive, and for their community to grow, they need us to be their voice. BECOME A CWR MEMBER; together we will be a strong collective voice for the whales.

# 2019 ENCOUNTERS

Enc # • Date • Pods

- « #80 • 30-Sept • J, K, L Pod - False Bay
- « #79 • 28-Sept • Transients - Muir Creek
- « #78 • 25-Sept • K, L Pod - Haro Strait
- « #77 • 22-Sept • Transients - East Sooke Park
- « #76 • 21-Sept • Transients - Juan de Fuca Strait
- « #75 • 21-Sept • Transients - Becher Bay
- « #74 • 21-Sept • K, L Pod - Haro Strait
- « #73 • In review
- « #72 • 18-Sept • Transients - Haro Strait
- « #71 • 15-Sept • Transients - Sheringham Point
- « #70 • 12-Sept • K, L Pod - Port Renfrew
- « #69 • 12-Sept • Transients - Clallam Bay
- « #68 • 11-Sept • J Pod - Port Renfrew
- « #67 • 11-Sept • K, L Pod - Clo-oose
- « #66 • 11-Sept • Transients
- « #65 • 10-Sept • J, K, L Pod - Sombrio Point
- « #64 • 08-Sept • Transients - Clallam Bay

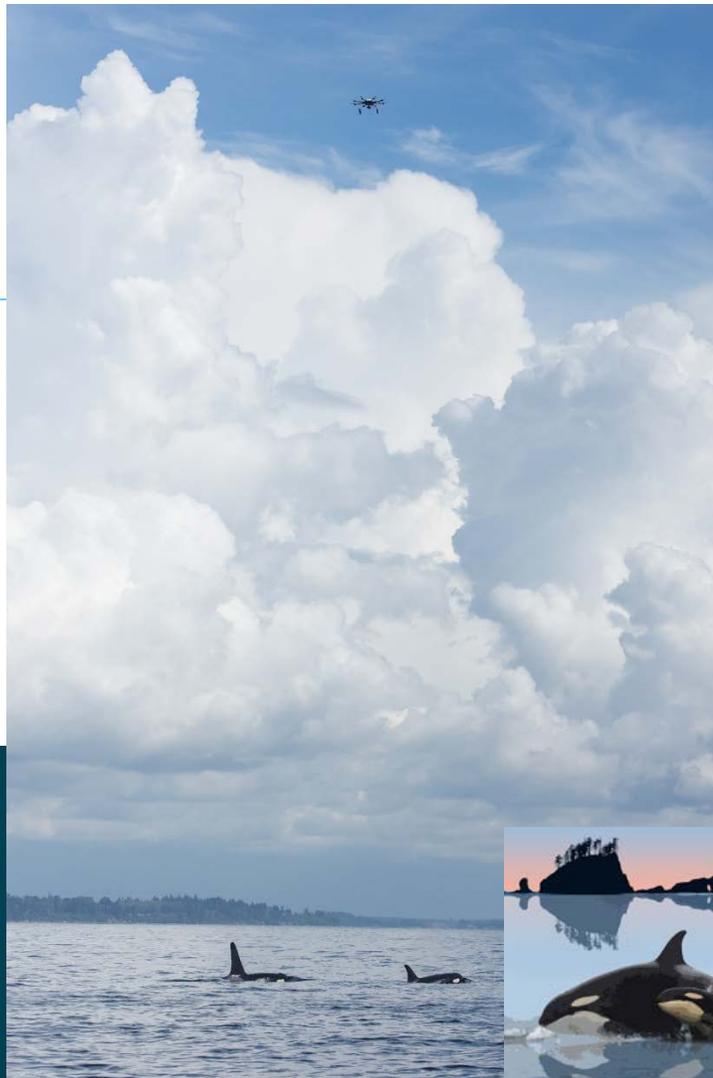




# RESEARCH UPDATES

## NOAA SWFSC

- 63/73 whales photographed, all of J and K and most of L pod
- Body condition appears OK, more detailed measurements, detections of pregnancies, and analysis pending





# RESEARCH UPDATES

## NOAA NWFSC

- Observations of foraging, prey samples and large volume fecal samples
- Veterinarian observations
- Overnight Dtag deployment, partnership with DFO



# RESEARCH UPDATES

## University of WA

- New dog
- Continuing field work through November
- New fecal analyses of parasites, bacteria, fungi, microplastics
- Collecting samples from multiple species



Photo: San Juan Journal, NOAA Permit #22141

# PROPOSAL FOR COASTAL CRITICAL HABITAT

- Extend CH along a ~1,000-mile swath of West Coast waters between the depths of 6.1 meters and 200 meters from Cape Flattery, WA, south to Point Sur, CA, just south of Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay.
- Comment Period through December 18, 2019





# CO-MANAGEMENT





# OVERVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT





# OVERVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT – KEY THEMES

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- **Southern Resident population trends and goals.**
- **Progress has been made, but Southern Resident orcas are still in crisis.**
- **Long-term threats imperil survival and put recovery efforts at risk.**
- **Task Force recommendations for successful recovery of Southern Residents:**
  - Address critical gaps and accelerate progress.
  - Address long-term threats of climate change and population growth.
  - Provide sustainable funding.
  - Continue the mission of Southern Resident orca recovery.

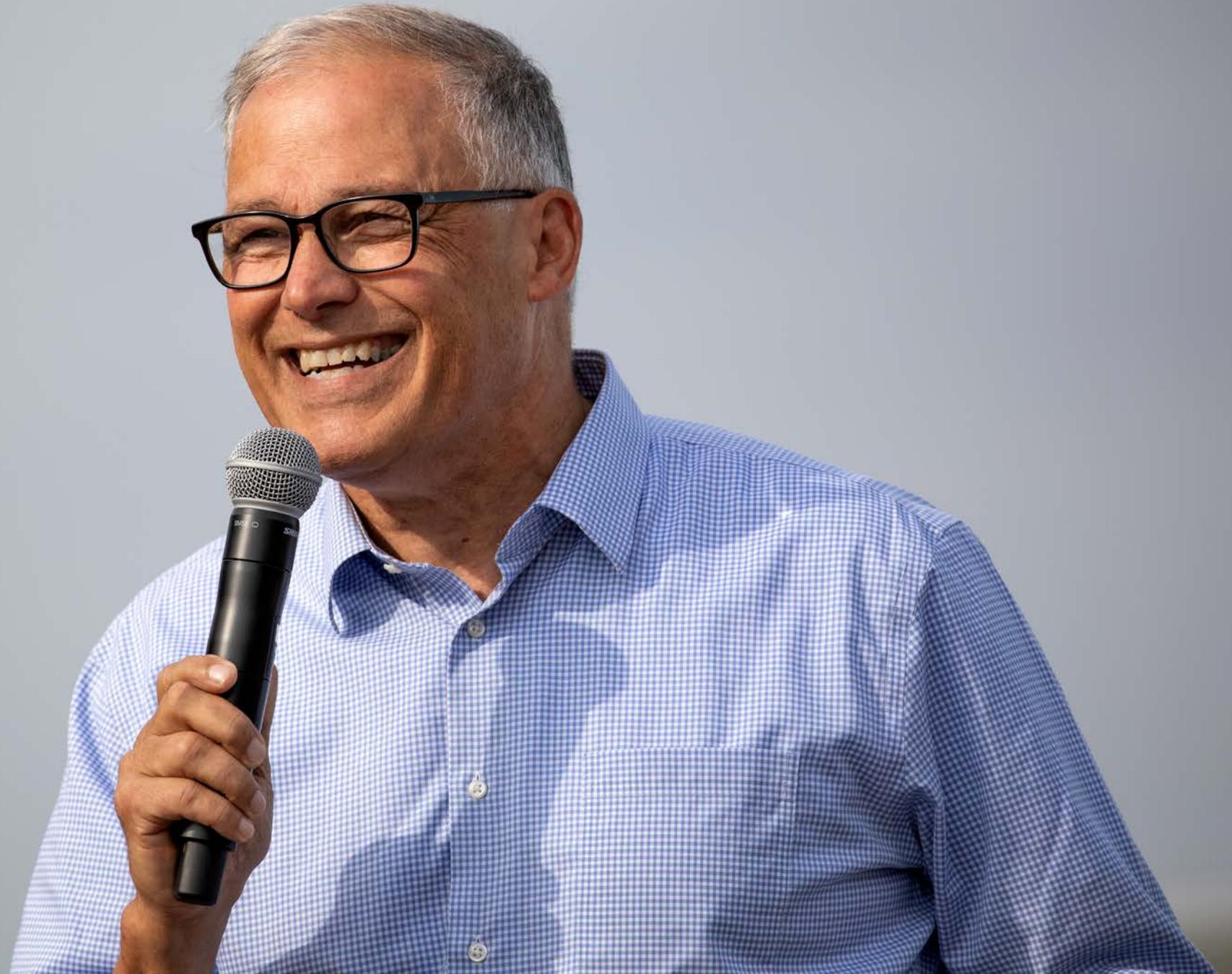


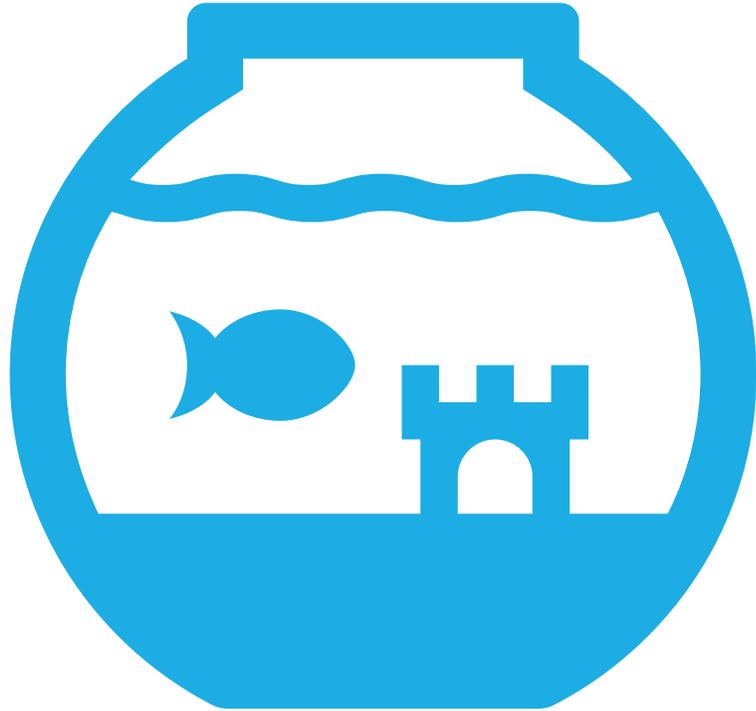
# OVERVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT - TIMELINE



- Review and discuss new recommendations.
- New recommendations revised and/or adopted by Task Force.
- Task Force review.
- Public comment.
- Final comments due from Task Force and public.
- Public comments provide to Task Force electronically.
- Update draft report to address input from Task Force.
- Final YR2 Task Force Report due to Governor.

**ADDRESS  
FROM  
GOVERNOR  
JAY INSLEE**





## **FISHBOWL**

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- Life after the Task Force
- Population Growth
- Contaminants
- Nutrients



# NEW RECOMMENDATIONS – LIFE AFTER TASK FORCE

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## NEW Recommendation YR2-G:

Create one or more entities with authority and funding to recover and advocate for Southern Resident Killer Whales by implementing Task Force recommendations, creating new recommendations as needed, and reporting to the public, governor, and tribal co-managers on status. **Any oversight group must incorporate the following elements:**

- Is co-managed by the Governor's office and tribes.
- Coordinates with federal agencies in both the United States and Canada to stay connected to ongoing policies around species recovery.
- Aligns with Governor's priority on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Environmental Justice.
- Maintains some element of the working group structure and provides ongoing support and facilitation of working groups by state agencies.
- Continued engagement from non-profits, businesses, and other stakeholders to monitor implementation of existing recs, consider new recs, and recommend course corrections for continued recovery.
- Maintains and enhances public visibility and interest in this crisis and facilitates a robust public engagement process.
- Builds on ongoing monitoring and reporting to maintain accountability to the public.
- Maximizes institutional durability, at least until the population reaches 84 whales by 2028.



# NEW RECOMMENDATIONS – POPULATION GROWTH

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## **NEW Recommendation YR2-M:**

Adopt and implement policies, incentives, and regulations for future growth and development to prevent any further degradation of critical habitat and sensitive ecosystems; enable and channel population growth in ways that result in net ecological benefit; evaluate and report outcomes for all jurisdictions at the state, county, tribal, and municipal level.

## **NEW Recommendation YR2-A:**

Conduct a comprehensive environmental review and take action to minimize potential whale-strike risk and underwater noise posed by the growing number and distribution of fast-ferries and water taxis in Southern Resident critical habitat.

- Federal and state agencies with the appropriate jurisdiction should coordinate and conduct the comprehensive environmental review.
- WA State ferries should work with operators of fast ferries and water taxis to determine and implement effective actions.
- Engage WA Maritime Blue in technology and innovation solutions.



# NEW RECOMMENDATIONS - CONTAMINANTS

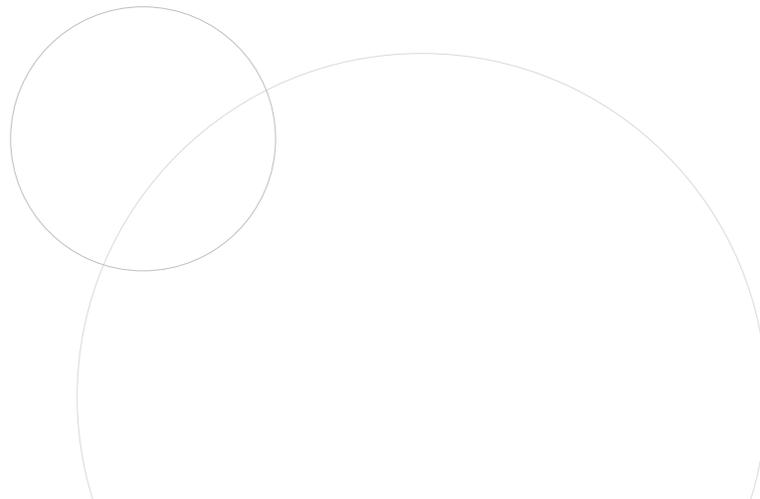
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## **NEW Recommendation YR2-B:**

Protect against regulatory rollbacks at the federal and state level.

## **NEW Recommendation YR2-C:**

Explore setting minimum standards for local stormwater funding to ensure that all programs have the resources necessary to protect water quality.





# NEW RECOMMENDATIONS - NUTRIENTS

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## **NEW Recommendation YR2-D:**

Develop a NPDES permit framework for advanced wastewater treatment in Puget Sound to reduce nutrients in wastewater discharges to Puget Sound by 2022.

## **NEW Recommendation YR2-E:**

Better align existing nonpoint programs with nutrient reduction activities and explore new ways to achieve the necessary non-point-source nutrient reductions.

## **NEW Recommendation YR2-F:**

Collect high-quality nutrient data in watersheds to fill key knowledge gaps of baseline conditions.



# NEW RECOMMENDATIONS – CLIMATE CHANGE

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## *Greenhouse gas emissions*

- **YR2-H:** Take aggressive, comprehensive and sustained action to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

## *Ocean acidification*

- **YR2-I:** Increase Washington's ability to understand, reduce, remediate and adapt to the consequences of ocean acidification.

## *Prey*

- **YR2-J:** Mitigate the impact of a changing climate by accelerating and increasing action to increase the resiliency and vitality of salmon populations and the ecosystems on which they depend.

## *Vessels*

- **YR2-K:** Expand the Governor's Maritime Blue scope of work and provide funding to implement recommendations from the Orca TF and pursue shipping and other maritime innovations that benefit Southern Residents.

## *Contaminants*

- **YR2-L:** Identify and mitigate increased threats to Southern Residents from contaminants due to climate change and ocean acidification. Prioritize actions that proactively reduce exposure where the increased impacts are expected to be most severe.



## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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*Please limit comments  
to **two minutes** each.*





# **ADOPTION OF NEW RECOMMENDATIONS**





**ADJOURN**

